



Literally Speaking



Newport/Mesa ProLiteracy 1000 Avocado Ave, Newport Beach, CA 92660 (949) 717-3874

August/September 2011

A publication of Newport/Mesa ProLiteracy, a program of the Newport Beach Public Library

International Literacy Day

By Cherall Weiss

International Literacy Day, traditionally observed each year on September 8, focuses attention on worldwide literacy needs. More than 780 million of the world's adults (nearly two-thirds of whom are women) do not know how to read or write.

Newport/Mesa ProLiteracy uses International Literacy Day as an opportunity to focus on the tremendous strides our adult learners have made in reaching their goals. The celebration culminates in the presentation of the *Rochelle Hoffman Memorial Award*. This award, which is given to an adult learner who exemplifies the mission of the program, is presented each year by Rochelle Hoffman's daughters, Renee and Risa.

Past Hoffman Awardees are:

2006 Horacio Cortes	2009 Parvin Tabrizi
2007 Donnie Madril	2010 Claude Bonham
2008 Ruth Cisneros	

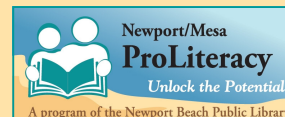
Please join us on **September 8, 2011** at 10:00am to celebrate International Literacy Day. It is our way of recognizing the efforts of volunteers and the progress of our adult learners. By improving literacy skills, we strengthen our community, and what better way is there to applaud these dedicated people than by being a community and supporting their efforts.



Save the Date

On October 19, 2011, the Newport Beach Public Library will host a "Volunteer Recognition Day" for those who assist the library in various capacities. Many of the people you see every day in the library – and some that you don't – are donating their time and the library wishes to acknowledge their hard work.

If you are a library volunteer and wish to RSVP for this event, please contact Jana Colver by September 16, at (949) 717-3824. Light appetizers will be served.



Get Involved:

- Join the Board and have a real impact on the future of the program
- Be a tutor or refer a tutor
- Talk to your friends or community groups about the problem of literacy in our area
- Support the program with an annual contribution
- Come to events like the *Gift of Literacy* luncheon or *International Literacy Day*
- Serve on a committee or share your expertise as a consultant

Contact Newport/Mesa ProLiteracy today to see how you can get involved!

949.717.3874
literacy@newportbeachca.gov
www.newportliteracy.org

Learner Network

Every three months the literacy program holds the **Learner Network** workshop. These quarterly meetings allow learners to meet, exchange ideas and find ways to better immerse themselves into their community.

Advisory Board Student Liaison Yana Newberg facilitates these meetings together with Cherall Weiss. During one of the recent gatherings, the learners decided to give back to their community by volunteering for a local community service project.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, **August 24** at 10:00am. Learner Network is open to all active learners in the Newport/Mesa ProLiteracy program.

"If a seed of a lettuce will not grow, we do not blame the lettuce.
Instead, the fault lies with us for not having nourished the seed properly."

~ Buddhist proverb ~

***We wish to thank the
Newport Beach City Council for
their ongoing support of
Newport/Mesa ProLiteracy***

Newport/Mesa ProLiteracy's Workplace Literacy Project

By Cherall Weiss

At the end of 2010, the **Newport Beach Hyatt Regency Hotel** approached Newport/Mesa ProLiteracy to design a program that would help improve their employee's literacy skills. Hotel management understands that better literacy skills will make staff more effective representatives of the hotel, help create a safer work environment, and give the employees more opportunities for advancement.

With the help of a generous grant from **State Street Foundation**, this exciting new program was launched in June. Anita Razin, a journalist and certified instructor, brings enthusiasm, fun and a critical eye while she works with a select group of food servers.

The aim of this first group is to better read and understand the menus, including knowing ingredients and food descriptions, safety labels and more.

They are now about half way through their classes and have already made great progress in obtaining these goals.



Donations are always welcome

We are grateful for the community support that we receive from local companies, foundations, and organizations, and individuals whose donations have been helping the program continue to serve the literacy needs of our community.

If you have any contacts who might be interested in supporting Literacy Services, please contact the office.

Newport/Mesa ProLiteracy

1000 Avocado Avenue
Newport Beach, CA 92660
(949) 717-3874

We are an IRS designated 501(c)(3) #93-1011706

President's Message

Two Great Words



Since we can be considered to be in the 'word business' I thought that I would focus on two great words that apply so strongly to the people who are involved in our literacy program on a regular basis.

Everyone involved from our learners, volunteers, tutors, staff and Advisory Board members are **AMAZING!** While **AMAZE** means to affect with great surprise and wonder, I shouldn't be! We have a committed group of individuals who want to make things happen....and they do!

As you read this newsletter check out the **AMAZING** things taking place. From a team of learners paying it forward in the community to our new job skills program debuting at the Hyatt Regency, there is terrific energy going on.

The celebratory spirit of our 25th Anniversary has created a **MOMENTUM** that has spurred us to grow the program in a time of uncertainty and take it to a new level. **MOMENTUM** equals the force of motion and believe me we have both the force and the motion! You don't want to get in the way when one of our learners presents a new objective, or one of our tutors has a new way to enhance the learning skills of our participants. Things happen and that is a good thing for us all.

Now our challenge is to keep the **MOMENTUM** going. We need your help, and your time and talents can be used in so many different ways depending on you. Check out our *needs* card and see where you can support the program so this time next year we can still be **AMAZED** at the results and the **MOMENTUM** hasn't changed.

Thank you, have a great summer and let's continue the celebration.

Nancy Thompson

Tutors: Thank you for turning in your monthly report by the 3rd of each month!

Volunteer Opportunity

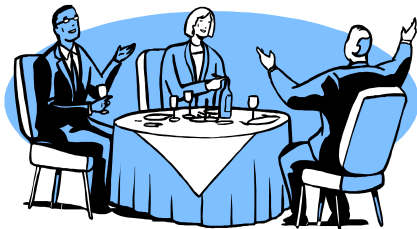
If you are a tutor or learner and enjoy working outside with plants, sign up for **2nd Sundays at Upper Newport Bay**. We are organizing a group from Newport/Mesa ProLiteracy to volunteer on August 14, 9:00-11:00am.

Communicating with Confidence

On July 18, the Monday evening class *Small Talk/Big Talk* was restructured and renamed *Communicating with Confidence*.

This class — facilitated by Sandra Starr — helps learners to increase their ability to communicate better in conversations, meetings, public and social situations, and more. Each class focuses on specific ideas to improve individual communications and each idea will be practiced in class.

We hope all learners will join us for this new class, which meets the first and third Mondays of each month at 6:30pm.



Literally Speaking

Literally Speaking, the newsletter of Newport/Mesa ProLiteracy at the Newport Beach Public Library, is published bi-monthly and sponsored by corporate and private donations.

Literacy Advisory Board

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 Sandra Starr

The Chapter Ends for Families For Literacy

"Thank you for the book, 'Charlotte's Web' from the Families For Literacy Program. I finished reading it finally, and I feel warm hearted now because of this book.

First of all, I was very curious about how the spider would save the pig's life. This curiosity helps me to continue to read my English.

The spider, Charlotte, did a great job, spinning her web. Therefore, Wilbur's life was saved because he got a medal at the fair. How creative this author is!!

I enjoyed reading this book. Especially after reading the last chapter, I felt very peaceful.

Thank you again for introducing this loving, tender story to me."

~Written by a learner of Newport/Mesa ProLiteracy

Due to recent budget cuts and after much debate, the Newport/Mesa ProLiteracy Advisory Board has decided not to continue the **Families For Literacy** program at the Newport Beach Public Library.

We wish to thank the dedicated families who attended most — if not all—of the monthly gatherings. It was a pleasure to share games, crafts and songs with all the children.

We also want to express our appreciation to Claire Crawford, NBPL librarian, who was in charge of our story time.

Always remember the importance of reading to your children every day. You will instill in them a love of books and family, a legacy that will last them their whole lives and which they will pass on to their own children.

By Francine Jacome



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Upcoming Literacy Dates/Events

August 1, 8	Mondays, 10:30 am	Book Club
August 1, 15	Mondays, 6:30 pm	Communicating with Confidence
August 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	Tuesdays, 10:15 am	Discussion Class
August 3	Wednesday, 10:00 am	Movie Talk
August 4, 11, 18, 25	Thursdays, 10:30 am	Life Skills Dialogue
August 8, 15	Mondays, 5:30 pm	Tutor Training
August 12, 26	Fridays, 9:30 am	Advanced Life Skills Dialogues*
August 14	Saturday, 9:00 am	2nd Sundays at Upper Newport Bay**
August 24	Wednesday, 10:00 am	Learner Network
September 1, 15, 22, 29	Thursdays, 10:30 am	Life Skills Dialogue
September 5	Monday	Library Closed for Labor Day
September 6, 13, 20, 27	Tuesdays, 10:15 am	Discussion Class
September 7	Wednesday, 10:00 am	Movie Talk
September 8	Thursday, 10:00 am	International Literacy Day
September 9, 23	Fridays, 9:30 am	Advanced Life Skills Dialogues*
September 19	Mondays, 6:30 pm	Communicating with Confidence

* By invitation only. Must attend Thursday Life Skills Dialogues class to be eligible

** Contact office to register for this activity

Note: All programs are held at the Central Library unless otherwise posted and subject to change.
 For more details, contact the literacy office at (949) 717-3874 or email us at literacy@newportbeachca.gov